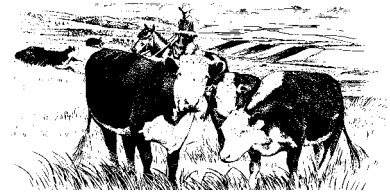


California Livestock Review



Frequency: Monthly
Released: April 28, 2000

(USPS 598-250)
VOL. 22 NO. 4



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Cattle on Feed	1-2
Farm Prices and Milk Production	2
Livestock Slaughter and Hog/Pig Inventory	3

CATTLE ON FEED IN CALIFORNIA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 405 thousand head on April 1, 2000, the same as last month, but 5 percent above April 1999. During March, placements of 59.0 thousand head were 7 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 51.0 thousand head were 2 percent above March 1999. Other disappearance totaled 8.00 thousand head.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 8 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 11.19 million head on April 1, 2000. The inventory was 8 percent above April 1, 1999 and 11 percent above April 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.79 million steers and steer calves, up 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.35 million head, up 7 percent from 1999. Placements in feedlots

during March totaled 2.02 million, 1 percent below 1999, but 18 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.92 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 331 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 406 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 715 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 564 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 2.05 million, 3 percent above 1999 and 10 percent above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 101 thousand during March, 42 percent above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998.

CATTLE ON FEED UP 8 PERCENT IN HISTORIC SEVEN MONTHLY STATES

Cattle on feed April 1, 2000 for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 9.57 million in the historic seven states, up 8 percent from the previous year and 11 percent above April 1, 1998. The inventory included 5.74 million steers and steer calves, up 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.80 million head, up 8 percent from 1999. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.72 million, 1 percent below 1999, but 21 percent above 1998. Marketings during March totaled 1.76 million, 6 percent above 1999 and 12 percent above 1998. Other disappearance during March was 74.0 thousand head, 42 percent above 1999 and 7 percent above 1998.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN SEVEN SELECTED STATES

State	Number on feed March 1 1/			Placed During March		Marketed During March	
	1999	2000 2/	2000/1999	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	203	275	135	39	30	27	27
California	385	405	105	55	59	50	51
Colorado	1,130	1,180	104	240	250	240	250
Iowa	360	375	104	57	57	56	56
Kansas	2,030	2,320	114	440	400	380	420
Nebraska	2,160	2,310	107	380	400	350	390
Texas	2,610	2,830	108	530	520	565	570
Seven-State Total	8,878	9,695	109	1,741	1,716	1,668	1,764
State	Other Disappearance During March 3/		Number on Feed April 1		2000/1999		
	1999	2000	1999	2000			
	1,000 Head					Percent	
Arizona	1	5	214	273	128		
California	5	8	385	405	105		
Colorado	10	10	1,120	1,170	104		
Iowa	1	1	360	375	104		
Kansas	10	20	2,080	2,280	110		
Nebraska	10	10	2,180	2,310	106		
Texas	15	20	2,560	2,760	108		
Seven-State Total	52	74	8,899	9,573	108		

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

2/ Iowa data revised.

3/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 2.72 billion pounds of milk in March 2000. This was 6 percent above February 2000 and 4 percent above March 1999.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,815 pounds, 105 pounds more than February 2000 and 20 pounds more than a year ago.

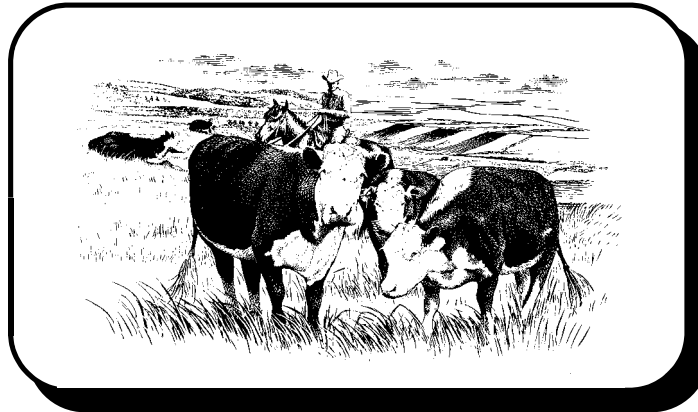
CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/						Total Milk Receipts 2/		UNITED STATES 1/ 3/					
	Milk Cows		Milk Per Cow		Milk Production				Milk Cows		Milk Per Cow		Milk Production	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds				1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1,444	1,492	1,690	1,815	2,440	2,708	2,437	2,706	7,694	7,765	1,518	1,578	11,679	12,256
Feb.	1,447	1,496	1,555	1,710	2,250	2,558	2,243	2,556	7,696	7,766	1,404	1,505	10,804	11,691
Mar.	1,452	1,500	1,795	1,815	2,606	2,723	2,600		7,713	7,770	1,585	1,634	12,228	12,694
Apr.	1,456		1,770		2,577		2,572		7,720		1,554		11,998	
May	1,459		1,825		2,663		2,655		7,733		1,610		12,447	
June	1,464		1,710		2,503		2,500		7,740		1,516		11,737	
July	1,467		1,715		2,516		2,509		7,751		1,498		11,610	
Aug.	1,472		1,770		2,605		2,598		7,755		1,487		11,534	
Sept.	1,476		1,710		2,524		2,516		7,753		1,445		11,200	
Oct.	1,480		1,760		2,605		2,602		7,746		1,491		11,549	
Nov.	1,484		1,715		2,545		2,538		7,756		1,459		11,315	
Dec.	1,488		1,775		2,641		2,639		7,757		1,538		11,928	

1/ Milk production for 2000 is preliminary and will be revised.

2/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling Branches. Excludes on-farm usage.

3/ Twenty-state total.



AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 1999	February 2000	March 15, 2000	March 1999	February 2000	March 15, 2000
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	105.00	89.00	94.00	79.00	72.60	74.80
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	109.00	91.00	95.00	83.20	77.40	78.00
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	28.00	39.90	41.30
Cows 2/	Cwt.	35.40	36.50	36.50	35.20	37.10	38.60
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	64.00	67.50	69.00	65.50	71.20	72.80
Calves 2/	Cwt.	79.00	96.00	97.50	87.30	105.00	107.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	33.00	31.50	37.50	32.70	39.50	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	66.00	72.00	80.00	67.40	72.00	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk Whsle. 2/	Cwt.	13.49	11.00	10.90	15.00	11.80	11.80

1/ The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

5/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July, and October.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during March 2000 totaled 94.8 million pounds (dressed weight), up 13 percent from last month and 1 percent above March 1999. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In March 2000, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,230 pounds; calves, 153 pounds; and hogs 219 pounds.

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH FOR MARCH

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.04 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the previous record high of 4.02 billion pounds produced in March 1999.

March 1999 and 2000 both contained 23 weekdays and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.30 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.13 million head, up 3 percent from 1999. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year to 1,215 pounds.

Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, 2 percent below the previous record low for March set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 103 thousand head, down 12 percent from March 1999. The average live weight, at 320 pounds, was 33 pounds above last year.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.81 million head, 3 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 262 pounds, 3 pounds above the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was down 17 percent from March 1999 and down 8 percent from the previous record low for March set in 1997 and 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 344 thousand head, 19 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 3 pounds from March a year ago.

January-March red meat production was 11.6 billion pounds, 2 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 4 percent higher than last year, veal was 1 percent higher, pork was 1 percent lower, and lamb & mutton was down 6 percent.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, MARCH 1999-00 a/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	86.2	91.8	109,878	112,998	1,275	1,230
U.S.	3,050.4	3,131.0	3,709,209	3,802,845	1,216	1,215
CALVES						
California	15.8	11.4	2,139	1,740	135	153
U.S.	116.8	102.8	33,482	32,938	287	320
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	423.9	344.2	57,919	48,120	137	140
HOGS						
California	202.9	201.9	43,395	44,156	214	219
U.S.	9,117.7	8,810.5	2,362,701	2,308,081	259	262
RED MEAT	March 1999	February 2000	March 2000	March 00 March 99	March 00 February 00	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	93.9	83.6	94.8	101	113	
U.S.	4,017.1	3,767.3	4,043.9	101	107	

a/ Farm slaughter excluded.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 3 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2000 was 58.1 million head. This was 3 percent below March 1999 and 2 percent below December 1, 1999.

Breeding inventory, at 6.22 million head, was down 5 percent from March 1, 1999 and down slightly from December 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 51.9 million head, was 3 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter.

U.S. MARCH 1 HOG AND PIG INVENTORY BY CLASS AND WEIGHT GROUPS

Item	1998	1999	2000	2000/1998	2000/1999
	1,000 Head			Percent	
All Hogs and Pigs	60,163	60,191	58,147	97	97
Kept For Breeding	6,942	6,527	6,215	90	95
Market	53,220	53,663	51,933	98	97
Market Hogs and Pigs By Weight Groups:					
Under 60 Pounds	20,192	19,978	19,312	96	97
60-119 Pounds	12,791	12,899	12,513	98	97
120-179 Pounds	10,774	10,995	10,648	99	97
180 Pounds & Over	9,464	9,792	9,460	100	97